Spread of silicosis disease in states and Pencil Industries in Mandsaur, M.P.

7404. SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) the number of workers engaged in slate and pencil industries who are ill because of disease in Mandsaur district of Madhya Pradesh and the number of workers who have died due to this disease.

(b) whether it is due to silica dust on the workers ; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government for the installation of dust-pollution controlling equipments in these factories ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) The State Govt. of M.P. has informed that as in May, 1994, 162 workers who are engaged in Slate and Pencil industries in Mandsaur Distt. of M.P. are suffering from silicosis disease and 226 workers have died due to this disease.

(b) Inhalation of fine particles of free silica in the dust can cause silicosis to workers.

(c) The State Govt. of Madhya Pradesh has informed that all cutter machines have been provided with dust-collection system. Protective measures like dust-mask, aprons etc. have also been provided.

Meeting with employers of child labourers

7405. SHRI AJIT P.K. JOGI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have convened a meeting of employers in the beedi, glass and carpet industries, which employ child labour on a large scale;

(b) if so, the main purpose of this meeting;

(c) whether a similar meeting of State Governments was also held recently;

(d) if so, the outcome of the talks held;

(e) whether any concrete proposals have been reached for eliminating the child labour in these sectors; and

(f) if so, the details thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main purpose of the meeting held on 2nd July, 1993 with representatives of employers was to seek their support and cooperation in addressing the problem of child labour.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) The employers' representatives assured support and endorsed the proposal for payment of uniform minimum wages to adults and children and expressed willingness to take up industry-specific projects for the welfare of child labour. The main conclusions reached in the 42nd Labour Ministers' Conference held on 7th July, 1993 pertain to better implementations of the National Child Labour Policy, stricter enforcement of the legislation relating to child labour, integration of programmes on universal primary education and poverty alleviation, doing away with the existing wage differential for adult and child labour under the Minimum Wages Act and involvement of trade unions, employers and NGOs in rehabilitation programmes for child labour.